Appln. No.: 10/689,838

Amendment dated August 13, 2004

Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Cancelled).

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) Clamping piece according to claim 2, characterized in that of

springy sheet metal comprising two opposing arms, each arm having a V-shaped latching recess

of such depth that when the clamping piece is in a latched position within an opening in a panel

said arms encompass respective edges of the panel opening; a spring bottom connecting said

opposing arms, said spring bottom having a hole in its middle for receiving a screw for securing

a component to the panel; and at least one supporting part for positioning between said spring

bottom and the component for holding the spring bottom a minimum distance from the

component when pressure is exerted on the spring bottom, said at least one the supporting part

(20, 21) is bent out of the latching recess (1, 2) and the associated arm (3, 4) comprising a

portion of one of said arms that extends at an angle to the respective one of the latching recesses

towards the spring bottom (5).

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) Clamping piece according to claim 1, characterized in that the

supporting part is in the form of of springy sheet metal comprising two opposing arms, each arm

having a V-shaped latching recess of such depth that when the clamping piece is in a latched

position within an opening in a panel said arms encompass respective edges of the panel

opening; an arched shaped spring bottom connecting said opposing arms, said spring bottom

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having a hole in its middle for receiving a screw for securing a component to the panel; and at

least one supporting part for positioning between said spring bottom and the component for

holding the spring bottom a minimum distance from the component when pressure is exerted on

the spring bottom, said at least one supporting part includes a tubular rail (22) drawn out of the

spring bottom (5) and wherein said walls are curved from said latching recesses to said arched

shaped spring bottom.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) Clamping piece according to claim 1, characterized in that

injected into of springy sheet metal comprising two opposing arms, each arm having a V-shaped

latching recess of such depth that when the clamping piece is in a latched position within an

opening in a panel said arms encompass respective edges of the panel opening; a spring bottom

connecting said opposing arms, said spring bottom having a hole in its middle for receiving a

screw for securing a component to the panel; and at least one supporting part for positioning

between said spring bottom and the component for holding the spring bottom a minimum

distance from the component when pressure is exerted on the spring bottom, said at least one

supporting part comprising a plastic tubular member positioned within the hole (12) in the spring

bottom (5) is a plastic tubular piece (24) forming the supporting part.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) Clamping piece according to claim 1, characterized in that of

springy sheet metal comprising two opposing arms, each arm having a V-shaped latching recess

of such depth that when the clamping piece is in a latched position within an opening in a panel

said arms encompass respective edges of the panel opening; a spring bottom connecting said

opposing arms, said spring bottom having a hole in its middle for receiving a screw for securing

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a component to the panel; and at least one supporting part for positioning between said spring

bottom and the component for holding the spring bottom a minimum distance from the

component when pressure is exerted on the spring bottom, said at least one supporting part

comprising a metal tubular member connected in form-fitting manner to the hole (12) in the

spring bottom (5) is a sheet metal tubular piece (25) forming the supporting part.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) Clamping piece according to claim 8 1, characterized in that

wherein the spring bottom is arched in form.

8. (New) Clamping piece of springy sheet metal comprising two opposing arms, each arm

having a V-shaped latching recess of such depth that when the clamping piece is in a latched

position within an opening in a panel said arms encompass respective edges of the panel

opening; a spring bottom connecting said opposing arms, said spring bottom having in its middle

a hole for receiving a screw for securing a component to the panel; and support lobes having a

length along said spring bottom that is shorter than a distance between said latching recesses and

extending from said spring bottom in a direction of said component when the clamping piece is

secured in the panel such that when pressure is applied to the spring bottom by the screw said

support lobes extend between said arms and through the panel opening in the direction of the

component to maintain a minimum distance between the component and said spring bottom.

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